

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 2, 2004

Reply to Attn of:

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John L. Henshaw
Assistant Secretary of Labor
for Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Mr. Henshaw,

We support the goals of the President through the Safety, Health and Return-to-Employment (SHARE) Initiative to collectively reduce accidents and illnesses in the Federal Government. NASA has adopted a top down and bottom up approach to inculcate safety and health awareness and practice for every employee and process. Sean O'Keefe, NASA Administrator, has been very supportive of effective and far reaching safety and health initiatives for our employees. Our occupational health programs provide extensive preventive and treatment services for the entire workforce, including wellness centers for physical fitness.

NASA accepts the Department of Labor's overall goals to a 3% reduction in total case rate for injuries and illnesses, 3% reduction in case rates for lost time injuries and illnesses, a 5% improvement in timeliness of filing notices of injury and illnesses and a 1% reduction in rates of lost production days due to injuries and illnesses.

We have strong safety programs in place, and a strong occupational health program on site at every NASA center to work to prevent accidents and illnesses, and when they occur to provide immediate medical treatment to minimize the affects. We are aggressive in preventive health programs and safety awareness and provide the information to all NASA employees to maximize their own involvement in a healthy lifestyle and working safely. Although we accept the Labor Department's goals, we will strive through our continuing safety and health programs to better all of those numbers.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Williams", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard S. Williams, MD, FACS
Designated Agency Health and Safety Officer

**Safety, Health and Return to Employment Initiative
(SHARE)**

<http://www.ohp.nasa.gov> under Workers' Compensation

**EXCELLENT PRIMER on workers' compensation:
www.dol-esa.gov/share/**

Presidential Letter/Sec of Labor/NASA DASHO letters

**Federal Government History, including NASA:
www.osha.gov
F: Federal Agency Programs**

**Statistics 1998-first quarter 2004, follows workers'
compensation claims.**

Current as of January 1, 2004.

**Most current data:
US Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA) Workers'
Compensation/Safety Tracker- access through your
workers' compensation specialist.**